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Agenda item 121
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Reformulated narrative of section 13, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 247 of the report on its thirty-ninth session,[1] the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended: (a) that the narrative of section 13, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[2] be reformulated in conformity with the standard presentation of the other sections of the proposed programme budget, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and the resolutions and decisions of relevant intergovernmental bodies subject to the final approval of the General Assembly; and (b) that the revised narrative be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session.

2. In addition, in paragraphs 248 and 249 of its report, the Committee recommended that revisions be also made to the text of paragraphs 13.3 and 13.25 of the narrative of section 13, Human settlements.

3. Pursuant to those recommendations, the following revisions to the narrative of section 13, Human settlements, are submitted to the General Assembly for it to take such action as it deems appropriate:

(a) **Paragraphs 13.3 and 13.4**

Replace old paragraphs 13.3 and 13.4 with the following three new paragraphs:

13.3 The Commission on Human Settlements, at its seventeenth session, adopted a resolution on revitalization of the Habitat Centre (HS/17/7), which mandated the Executive Director to implement the new strategic vision comprehensively to advance the Habitat Agenda, as embodied in the work programme and budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 2000-2001, through the two subprogrammes on adequate shelter for all and on sustainable urban

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development and through the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance. The Commission also welcomed the focus provided in the annex to the progress report of the Executive Director (HS/C/17/2), which recommended that Habitat confirm its status as the United Nations agency for cities and human settlements.

13.4 In another resolution, on the draft work programme and budget of Habitat for the biennium 2000-2001 (HS/17/20), adopted at the same session, the Commission approved the draft work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 and confirmed that the reorganization from four to two subprogrammes reflected the need for an improved focus with a limited number of well-defined objectives and that this provided for direct correspondence with the two themes of the Habitat Agenda of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. In the same resolution, the Commission called upon the Executive Director to consult closely with member Governments in developing the specific details of the work programme for the biennium, and recommended that the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 adopt the same strategic focus as the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 and that it be organized into two subprogrammes corresponding to the two themes of the Habitat Agenda.

13.5 The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", welcomed the efforts undertaken to strengthen the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements and called upon the United Nations Environment Programme and Habitat to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities. The Assembly also welcomed the proposals for the involvement, participation and constructive engagement of major groups active in the field of environment and human settlements, with due consideration for the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations. More specifically, as regards human settlements, the Assembly reiterated the importance of strengthening the capacity and capability of Habitat, within the framework of its existing mandate, in the areas of information and the monitoring and assessment of global and regional human settlements trends so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action. It stressed the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of human settlements, remained important components of the work programme of Habitat. The Assembly also stressed the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of effort. It reaffirmed the role of the Commission on Human Settlements in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and emphasized the need for it to take steps to prepare for the review of its implementation in 2001. It welcomed the proposals that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements strengthen its core activities and develop into a centre of excellence for human settlements. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. A review

of the programmatic and financial requirements to implement the resolution is currently being carried out and the outcome will be included in the report to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

(b) **Paragraphs 13.5 to 13.23**

Renumber old paragraphs 13.5 to 13.23 as 13.6 to 13.24.

(c) **Paragraph 13.24**

Delete old paragraph 13.24.

(d) **Paragraph 13.25**

In the second sentence of old paragraph 25, *replace* obligations *with* role *and* dwellings *with* housing

(e) **New text following paragraph 13.28**

After old paragraph 13.28 insert the following text:

Expected accomplishments

13.29 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Increased global awareness of the significance of security of tenure for the delivery of adequate shelter and the provision of infrastructure, to be achieved through collaborative activities with the international networks of non-governmental organizations and the media;

(b) Agreed global definitions of security of tenure, homelessness and adequate shelter;

(c) Increased political commitment by Governments at the national and local levels and their partners in civil society to use security of tenure as a basis for guiding public and private investments in the improved delivery of shelter, infrastructure and services for the urban poor;

(d) Enhanced capacity of local authorities, partners and communities to formulate action plans for the improvement of shelter;

(e) Enhanced understanding of global and regional housing conditions and trends, including rural-urban linkages;

(f) Expanded database of best practices on access to land and the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services.

(f) **Paragraphs 13.29 to 13.43**

Renumber old paragraphs 13.29 to 13.43 as 13.30 to 13.44.

(g) **New text following paragraph 13.43**

After old paragraph 13.43 insert the following text:

Expected accomplishments

13.45 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Enhanced awareness by policy makers and leaders at all levels of the role and importance of urban governance to sustainable social,

economic and environmental development, to be achieved through collaborative activities with partners, such as international associations of local authorities;

(b) Increased capacity for the exercise of good governance at the level of local authorities, including municipal finance and urban-planning processes that strategically integrate social, economic and environmental issues;

(c) Enabling and motivating city residents, especially women and other socially excluded groups, to participate in city governance, to be achieved through collaborative activities with non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;

(d) Enhanced capacity of national and local government authorities for policy formulation and for management of mitigation and rehabilitation programmes for natural and human-made disasters;

(e) Improved capacity of policy makers and leaders at all levels to monitor social, economic and environmental trends and conditions in urban areas and to assess the impact of their policies, strategies and action plans in support of sustainable urban development.

(h) **Paragraphs 13.44 to 13.52**

Renumber old paragraphs 13.44 to 13.52 as 13.46 to 13.54.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/54/16).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).